

improve habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms, reduce sediment deposits into streams and rivers, and improve visitor travel access.

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## **Alaska**

### **Alaska Public and Administrative Facilities Reconstruction and Maintenance**

**Date of Announcement:** March 9, 2009

**Estimated Funding:** \$ 985,000 for Capital Improvement and Maintenance

**County:** Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area

These projects support a wide variety of activities, including brown bear viewing, subsistence, and health and safety. Subsistence is a lifestyle of living from the land and streams and is a way of life for residents in rural villages in Alaska. These projects will stabilize failing structures, establish code compliance, and repair buildings. Anan Creek is the second most heavily visited bear viewing site in southeast Alaska. The project replaces the float system that supports the living quarters for employees who provide visitor services to the viewing site. In Hoonah, a cabin will be replaced using locally manufactured wood products, thus supporting an emerging market. And this will also provide much needed jobs and training for the economically depressed native community. In Cordova, the project replaces deteriorated siding on three buildings at the Cordova Work Center. At the Kenai Lake Work Center, the project provides replacement of an existing fuel storage building. That building is deteriorated and does not meet current codes. Replacing it with a new, prefabricated building will meet all codes and prevent environmental contamination.

### **Tongass Road Repair, Closure, and Fish Stream Improvement in Southeast Alaska**

**Date of Announcement:** March 9, 2009

**Estimated Funding:** \$ 1,450,000 for Capital Improvement and Maintenance

**County:** Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area

The roadwork portion of the project will repair roads, clean culverts, brush roadsides, and resurface roads with crushed rock over 18 miles of high use public thoroughfares. The work will provide safer driving surfaces and reduce erosion into high-value salmon streams critical to the existence of subsistence, charter, sport and the commercial fisheries. This project will also reduce future costs of transportation maintenance which will enable the Forest Service to focus on other critical community access needs to the national forests in this economically depressed area. This project also includes the temporary closure of several miles of road on the False Island road system. It will rehabilitate 38 miles of roads and remove up to 120 deficient culverts and 10 blocked fish crossings. This will restore fish streams, wetlands and reconnect disrupted wildlife corridors.

## **Fairbanks North Star Borough and Yukon-Koyukuk Area Hazardous Fuels Reduction**

**Date of Announcement:** March 9, 2009

**Estimated Funding:** \$ 1,500,000 for Wildland Fire Management

**Partners:** Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry

**Counties:** Fairbanks North Star Borough, Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area

Grants will be provided to the Alaska Division of Forestry for the Fairbanks North Star Borough for hazardous fuels reduction. The work will be in the Washington Creek, Salcha and South Fork Chena river drainages. Local work crews will thin forests by hand and mechanical means. Local rural village crews in the Yukon-Koyukuk area will thin black spruce and mixed hardwoods for 200 feet around homes and village infrastructure facilities, as well as construct firebreaks in areas identified with hazardous fuels buildups. The villages of Ruby, Venetie, Bettles/Evansville, Stevens Village, and Allakaket will benefit from the fuels reduction work. Many of these communities are so remote there are no connecting roads to other towns and few escape routes in the event of a wildfire. This will provide safety and much-needed jobs to small communities where unemployment is very high.

### **Cooper Lake Fuels Project - Thin and Pile**

**Date of Announcement:** May 5, 2009

**Estimated Funding:** \$ 270,000 for Wildland Fire Management

**County:** Kenai Peninsula Borough

An estimated 1 million acres on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula are infested with spruce bark beetle. This has resulted in vast amounts of dead and dying spruce trees. The combination of dead and dying trees with limited access and few evacuation routes has resulted in extreme risk to Cooper Landing, Alaska. This hazardous fuels reduction project has been identified in the Cooper Landing Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The plan is a collaborative effort involving citizen volunteers and federal, state, borough, and municipal representatives. This project will remove dead spruce, thin stands to improve tree resistance to insect attack, and pile and burn debris. These actions will help protect the community from future wildfires.

### **Hope Area Fuels Project - Thin and Pile**

**Date of Announcement:** May 5, 2009

**Estimated Funding:** \$ 875,000 for Wildland Fire Management

**County:** Kenai Peninsula Borough

An estimated 1 million acres on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula are infested with spruce bark beetle. This has resulted in vast amounts of dead and dying spruce trees, especially near the town of Hope, Alaska. The increasing numbers of dead and dying trees has resulted in extreme risk of wildfire to this and other communities. This hazardous fuels reduction project is located along



the Hope Highway, which is the only means out of the communities of Hope and Sunrise in the event of a wildfire. Several units in this project were identified in the Hope-Sunrise-Summit Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This is a collaborative effort involving residents from these communities. This project will remove dead spruce, thin stands to improve tree resistance to insect attack, and pile and burn debris. Workers will replace fire prone spruce with fire-resistant birch. All of these improvements will help protect these communities. Seven-hundred acres will be treated.

### **Kenai Borough Spruce Bark Beetle Mitigation**

**Date of Announcement:** May 5, 2009

**Estimated Funding:** \$ 1,795,000 for Wildland Fire Management

**County:** Kenai Peninsula Borough

Funds for these programs of work are for projects that will be carried out on State and Private Lands. Specific projects will be selected by the states.

### **MatSu (Matanuska-Susitna) CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) Wildfire Mitigation**

**Date of Announcement:** May 5, 2009

**Estimated Funding:** \$ 1,436,000 for Wildland Fire Management

**County:** Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Funds for these programs of work are for projects that will be carried out on State and Private Lands. Specific projects will be selected by the states.

### **Anchorage Hazardous WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) Fuels Treatment**

**Date of Announcement:** May 5, 2009

**Estimated Funding:** \$ 538,000 for Wildland Fire Management

**County:** Anchorage Municipality

Funds for these programs of work are for projects that will be carried out on State and Private Lands. Specific projects will be selected by the states.

### **Chugach State Parks Hazard Fuels**

**Date of Announcement:** May 5, 2009

**Estimated Funding:** \$ 179,000 for Wildland Fire Management

**Counties:** Anchorage Municipality, Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Funds for these programs of work are for projects that will be carried out on State and Private Lands. Specific projects will be selected by the states.

### **Alaska Weed Management**

**Date of Announcement:** May 13, 2009

**Estimated Funding:** \$ 1,140,000 for Wildland Fire Management

**Counties:** Aleutians East Borough; Bristol Bay Borough; Fairbanks North Star Borough; Kenai Peninsula Borough; Kodiak Island Borough; Matanuska-Susitna Borough; Southeast Fairbanks Census Area; Valdez-Cordova Census Area; Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area

Funds for these programs of work are for projects that will be carried out on State and Private Lands. Specific projects will be selected by the states.

### **Ocean Boulevard Forest Thinning**

**Date of Announcement:** June 2, 2009

**Estimated Funding:** \$ 677,000 for Capital Improvement and Maintenance

**County:** Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area

Following completion of the Tongass Road Reconstruction and Decommissioning companion roads project; this project will thin 238 acres of young growth forest to improve forest health. It increases the space, sunlight, water and nutrients available for the remaining trees, allowing them to thrive and grow, providing improved habitat for deer. This project is located near Sitka, Alaska. Benefits include better subsistence opportunities. Subsistence is living from the land and streams and it is critical for residents in rural villages in Alaska. This project has strong support from the community of Sitka, the Sitka Tribal Council, and The Nature Conservancy. In addition to jobs supported by the actual project, it will also create economic benefits to local communities from service and supply industries during project implementation.

### **Colorado Road and Trail Fish Passage Improvement in Alaska**

**Date of Announcement:** June 2, 2009

**Estimated Funding:** \$ 300,000 for Capital Improvement and Maintenance

**Partners:** Yakutat Salmon Board, The Nature Conservancy, Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, City and Borough of Yakutat

**County:** Yakutat Borough

In Yakutat, Alaska, 90 percent of the town's economy depends upon subsistence (living from the lands and streams), recreational and commercial fisheries. Healthy wetlands, streams and watersheds are critical in such rural villages. However, in Yakutat, historic roads built for oil exploration damaged over 6,000 acres of wetlands and streams in the Situk and Lost River watersheds. These roads diverted streams and blocked salmon passage with abandoned plugged culverts. This project, associated with a road project on the Tongass National Forest, reconnects